

GEORGE W. YORK, Editor.

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CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

The Charms of the Apiary.

Read at the Wisconsin Convention, at Madison, Feb. 7, 1900.

BY MISS ADA L. PICKARD.

PASSING leisurely thru the old meadow white as the driven snow with clover blossoms, we see a bee here, one there, and on every side; but to the average passer it is only a bee, made with a sting, flitting from flower to flower without purpose.

To me, the bee is beautiful, and, like man, it is "fearfully and wonderfully made," showing forth the handiwork of a wonderful Creator.

Some authors have placed the beetle as the highest order of insects; others claim the butterfly and moth entitled to a first place; while others, and with the best of reasons, claim for the bee the highest position.

The moth and butterfly are admired for the glory of their coloring and elegance of their form, and the beetle for the luster and brilliance of its wing-covers; but these only reveal nature's wealth, and live and die without labor or purpose.

The bee, or "white man's fly," as the Indians call it, less gaudy, usually quite plain and unattractive in color, is most highly endowed among insects. It lives with a purpose, and is the best model of industry and economy to be found among animals.

Think of the bees, so frail that they may be deprived of life by the slightest pressure, and how they toil on and on with that untiring energy from dawn until dark, and what an aggregate quantity of the most delicious and wholesome sweet those little insects will store! What beauty the immaculate comb, filled with that golden-colored, sparkling sweet, presents to the eye, making a most luscious and delicate food for the table—a food declared from the most ancient time until the present day suitable for king or queen. Reflect for a moment upon the

wonderfully delicate receptacle the honey is stored in—little waxen cups or cells with walls about 1-180th of an inch in thickness, and also formed so as to combine the greatest strength with the least expense of material and room. It is certainly an enigma within itself.

Apiculture opens the book of Nature to any who love to look upon and study the marvelous pages she is ever waiting to unfold. She is ever presenting the most pleasurable surprises to those on the alert to receive them, and among the insect host, especially the bees, the instincts and habits are so marvelous that the student of this department of nature is moved with wonder and admiration.

By the habit of constant observation one becomes more able, useful, and susceptible to pleasure. The wide-awake apiarist who is so frequently busy with his wonder-working companions of the hive, can never be lonely or feel time hanging heavily on his hands. The mind is occupied, and

there is no chance for dullness or languor. The tendency of such thought and study, where nature is the subject, is to refine the taste, elevate the desire, and ennoble manhood. If our youth, with their susceptible natures, become engaged in the wholesome study of nature, we shall have less reasons to fear the vicious tendencies of the streets. Thus apiculture spreads an intellectual feast, furnishing the rarest food for the observing faculties—that which the old philosophers themselves would have coveted.

Must the male sex of our race only enjoy this intellectual feast? Nay! nay! the Creator never intended that the wonder and beauty of nature should be revealed to man only. Man and woman were created equal, and why may not the feminine enjoy the pleasures and fascinations that the apiary may afford? Why may not any person who is cautious and observing take up apiculture either as an avocation or as an amateur? He must however be willing to work with Spartan energy during the busy season, and give prompt attention to all its varied

duties. Enthusiasm, or an ardent love for its duties, is a very desirable qualification, and promptitude is an absolute requisite to successful bee-keeping, as neglect is the rock on which too many bee-keepers have wrecked their success.

Apiculture seems especially adapted to those whose life-work is a dull, humdrum routine, that seems to rob life of all zest. If more of our ladies, instead of seeking the office-chair, the place behind the counter, or the position at the



Miss Ada L. Pickard.

school-desk—all of which shut out fresh air and sunshine, until pallor and languor points sadly to departing health and vigor—would seek *apiculture* as an avocation, we might have, instead of pale, wan cheeks, roses and blooming health.

"Ask not for life of ease, but ask
From strength to strength to grow.
Pray not to measure out your task
By powers that you may show;
But ask for powers to meet demands,
For love that knows no strife,
For crystal vision, tireless hands—
A better self for life."

Richland Co., Wis.

How to Raise the Price of Honey.

BY JOHN R. SCHMIDT.

DURING these days of advancement in the prices of material of all kinds, and bee-keepers' supplies being no exception, more ought to be said in the columns of our bee-papers regarding how we may advance the price of honey in order that the ever-advancing prices of supplies, which have already reached an unwelcome figure, may be compensated for.

It is true that within a year or so prices of honey have advanced somewhat, and bee-keepers are rejoicing universally; but so have the supplies advanced, and we are only too willing to look upon one side of the book only where there seems to be a gain. But what has caused this rise in the market, both in the price of honey and also in the supplies? Has there not been a scarcity of honey, and are we not told that the lumber districts are fast diminishing, and monopolies and trusts are controlling almost every useful article that is in demand? We know that overproduction tends to lower the price, and failure to meet the demand raises the price. This is just what has caused the advancement in the price of honey, and is also true in the other case; but will the prices of supplies continue to advance? Most assuredly they will. We can not replace our timber in a few years, which is now rapidly becoming less and less, nor can we hope to abolish monopolies and trusts—they are a "good thing" for the people who form them, and are the natural result of keen competition. So long as manufacturers combine to protect themselves against failure, bankruptcy and the "cut throat" prices which would prevail among them were it not for such an agreement of combination, so long will the prices continue to rise, and trusts continue to form. Therefore, we can not expect to find relief by abolishing, but can only hope to control them.

If prices are bound to advance in supplies, and no hopes are given us of ever expecting to see those much-needed articles cataloged at the old familiar prices, how are we to compensate for this increase in expenditure, and raise the price of our honey accordingly? This is a question which is of vital importance, and one which should ever be in the minds of those interested in the production of honey.

It is true, as I have said, that prices have advanced, but this advancement was the result of a scarcity of honey, and when after a good season the market will again be flooded and prices will drop to their former figure, then there will again be the old complaint of low prices, from all quarters. But how are we to maintain the present price and continue the advancement? There is only one way. Bee-keepers, like farmers, can not form trusts or combines, and it is impossible to corner the honey crop, so we must appeal to the bee-keepers themselves.

It is the unconquerable desire among bee-keepers to market their honey as soon as it is harvested, and "the sooner the better" is the only thing thought of. This is just where a very, very great mistake is made; as a result honey becomes a drug upon the market, and low prices reign. To make matters still worse, "quotations" are given which tend to drop rather than rise. This causes the bee-keeper to ship his honey immediately for fear of losing a few cents per pound if he holds on to it any longer. After it is all sold he begins to realize the low figures which his honey sold for, and often this is where the commission man comes in for a good "raking," if I may be allowed to use the expression.

This year, or the past, has been a good one for the advancement of prices on honey, and owing to the scarcity and the "holding back" of large quantities, a better price was commanded, and it was gladly given. This is the only way we can maintain the price in the future, and the keynote of success has been sounded in some of our periodicals, warning those who have honey to hold on to it and ask a higher price. Some say that necessity compels them to sell

as soon as it is ready for the market. This necessity is the result of the bee-keeper's thoughtlessness in the beginning. Why not sell only in small quantities, and still have a good supply unsold for late winter and early spring demand, instead of rushing the whole crop off at once, getting your money all at once, and, as a result, an empty pocket-book and no bank account later on, which again forces the coming crop upon the market.

Honey that I sold for 13 cents early last fall would now find a ready sale at 18 cents. Hereafter, my small crop of honey will sell at a good price in the beginning, or remain stored until I get my price.

Small bee-keepers who do not depend upon apiculture alone for a livelihood have much to do with setting the price of honey, and it is to them that we must appeal. They are the ones who often supply the grocery trade in the vicinity in which they live. Often in early fall they bargain to supply the small demand of the grocer at a low figure just to have their honey move off quickly; and immediately this price becomes the standard with that grocer, and he is unwilling to give the professional a higher price, because he can buy all the honey his trade calls for at a lower figure.

Now, how are we going to remedy this? It can only be done by calling bee-keepers' attention to this very important question, and keeping it constantly before them. This we can only do thru our papers and conventions. Then when we begin to learn that in union only there is strength, and that we must work together for mutual benefit, and not each one for himself, the time will be near at hand when the fond hopes of the bee-keeper for higher prices will be realized.

Hamilton Co., Ohio.

Detecting the Initial Stage of Foul Brood.

BY F. GORDON.

I AM a member of a reading circle that takes several American bee-papers, the American Bee Journal among them. For long I have been musing, the fire is kindled, and at last I feel I must speak with my tongue—subject, foul brood.

I congratulate you that some parts, at any rate, of your land seem to be so free from it that many bee-keepers do not recognize it in its incipient stages. I refer especially to page 819 (1899), in the proceedings of the Utah bee-keepers' convention. "Mr. Lovesay, in giving his experience with foul brood, opened up a new field of investigation," etc.

For the benefit of the craft, let me urge upon you that this field has been investigated long ago, and the "back presentation" of larvæ in their cells that he refers to is the recognized orthodox first stage of foul brood, and the only stage in which drug treatment will be at all satisfactory.

Tho Mr. Cowan's "Guide-Book" leaves room for more light, still this stage is accurately described therein. I have been to hives, with a spray diffuser of phenyle mixture, searched their brood-nests thru; and if I found one single larva, amid a hive of healthy brood, showing me its back instead of being curled round in the normal manner, I would say to myself, "foul brood," and apply the medicinal spray forthwith. Many times I have had the gloomy privilege of watching the disease develop from such beginnings, thru the yellow to the coffee-color pulp that draws out, and beyond that to the dried-up scale half way down the cell. In cases I have seen the disease arrested at the "restless larva" or "back presentation" stage, but whether by the phenyle sprinkling, or by a good honey-flow, I do not care to say.

Referring to the well-known photograph of a badly diseased comb that is published, I am impelled to say that it may, instead of being a help to the novice, become most misleading, in fact is almost bound to be so. The disease depicted there is bad—very bad—and any careful bee-keeper of two years standing or less, who knows the look and scent of a healthy brood-nest, could not fail to perceive something seriously wrong if he discovered one of his hives in such a putrid state as that, even without the aid of any photograph or instruction. But to wait for such an appearance before recognizing foul brood is a most lamentable mistake. The disease has then had at least three weeks visible run, possibly several months, and is past the redemption point, fit only for the fire and the spade.

I said "visible," for how long the disease had lain dormant nobody knows. But the bee-keeper could have seen it three weeks before, and perhaps saved his combs as well as the adult bees.

Mr. Simmins, editor of Bee-Chat, gives a still more

preliminary stage, viz.: Patchy, irregular brood-nest. That is, where a few of these yellow, restless larvæ have been turned out by energetic workers as soon as affected with the disease, before the eye of the owner ever saw them; this leaving, of course, either empty cells among brood; or cells with different aged larvæ contiguous, supposing the queen finds those empty cells and lays in them. I believe this to be a perfectly correct symptom of the bee-keepers' pest—genuine foul brood.

Touching on remedies, izal has been praised of late. Personally, I have found it of no manner of use. Mr. Simmons tells me it is because my bees were blacks. Carniolans and Italians he considers much more immune. After fighting the disease two seasons I finally had to destroy my whole apiary of about 60 colonies to get rid of it.

Some time since there was a case recorded, I think in the American Bee Journal, of a man who sent up a sample of suspected comb to a professor for his opinion, and was told the comb was not diseased, whereas subsequent events proved it was diseased. The professor replied, describing the coffee-colored, stretchy character of diseased matter, and saying he could hardly credit how such a mistake could have been made. I think a very simple explanation would be that the aforesaid comb was in the initial stages of the disease, showing only pale yellow displaced larvæ, and no coffee-colored matter at all, which, of course, developed later in the owner's hive.



Separators or No Separators, Etc.

BY EDWIN BEVINS.

ON page 106 is an item headed "Separators and Fences." The first sentence affirms that F. L. Thompson says that "the idea that sections are better filled without separators than with them is a mere notion." Standing alone, this sentence, like some texts of scripture, would leave the reader in some doubt as to what the author was driving at. Further on Mr. Thompson is quoted as saying that "a number of times he tried separators in half of a super, with no separators in the other half, and that the result was always the same—no difference." The last quotation serves the purpose of a key to the meaning of the first one, and altho I have not read the article from which these quotations were made, I conclude that the article in its entirety was an argument against the use of separators.

Now, how many bee-keepers in the United States will stand up and say that they have observed no difference in the weight or smoothness of sections of honey produced with and without separators? I have used supers in the same yard for several years—some with and some without separators—and there has always been a marked difference both in weight and appearance of the sections. A super full of sections when filled with honey would always weigh more than a super with separators. The sections without separators were always unevenly filled and difficult to prepare for shipment. If this is not Mr. Thompson's experience, I believe it is the experience of nine out of ten, if not of ninety-nine out of a hundred, of comb-honey producers. But I will pursue the subject no further, having, as I said before, not read Mr. Thompson's article, and it may be that I have been fighting a man of straw.

CROSSING SWORDS WITH MR. DOOLITTLE.

I am aware of the hazard in differing from Mr. Doolittle about anything pertaining to the management of bees and bee-hives. Armed cap-a-pie with apicultural lore and experience he riots amid the crowd of less well equipped bee-keepers as the armed and armored knights of the middle ages rioted amidst the common herd of the soldiery of the times.

But I will venture to say that I do not quite like his recommendation to use the 10-frame Langstroth and dovetailed hives in place of the 8-frame sizes, and then contract to seven frames during the white honey-flow. This management may be good for those who do not care to give their bees in 8-frame hives much attention in cold weather, as the after management may be made conducive to successful wintering.

The principal reason for my objection to the change is, that, with this lateral expansion of the brood-chamber there must be a corresponding expansion of the super. I am becoming more and more convinced that a super holding 24 sections is quite large enough. Observations in recent years have inclined me to the belief that I would prefer a super taking less than 24 sections to one taking more. The

objection to a change to a smaller super is the difficulty of adjusting the double-purpose brood-chamber to the one-purpose super.

FASTENING FOUNDATION ON MOULDED TOP-BARS.

And now I will tell the bee-keepers who use moulded top-bars a trick I have learned about fastening foundation. I use a Daisy foundation roller to roll the foundation on, and this fastening is sufficient if the frames are used immediately, but the foundation in frames not used soon will loosen in places, if not all along the bar. To prevent this, use a splint the length of the foundation, nailing it on with some fine wire nails. The splints may be made from the small branches of willow or other straight-grained wood that splits easily, and the convex side of the splint placed against the rolled edge of the foundation. Supply manufacturers could cheaply furnish splints for the purpose.

Decatur Co., Iowa.



The Principles of Plant Growth or Work.

BY PROF. A. J. COOK.

FROM numerous letters which I have received, I feel quite certain that many readers will not only gain pleasure, but much of value, if I give in this article a simple, plain explanation of the principles of the plant growth. Indeed, every bee-keeper and every farmer can not be too well versed in the principles of vegetable physiology. There are many who think that the plant takes the honey right from the sap. It would seem that simply tasting of the sap would quickly correct this mistake.

One of the most wonderful discoveries of this century was that of Schwann, made about 60 years ago, of the cell. It was shown that the basis of all structure of both animals and plants consists of cells. These cells are very much the same whether in the plant or animal. The plant then consists of cells—little sacs or vesicles, which are not as their name implies, empty vessels, but are always full of a semi-liquid substance known as protoplasm or cytoplasm. This cytoplasm is the great worker in all plants and animals. Thus the cells are the seat of all work done; and all the work is done by this cytoplasm.

As every well-informed person knows, we are constantly wearing out and building up. Whenever we do any work, like moving a muscle, tissue tears down or wears out, and at once builds up again. This is why we must constantly have food to furnish material for this building up, or anabolism as it is called. The plants behave in the same manner. They wear out and build up. The cells which make up the organism act in this respect as the whole organism acts. They are the workers, and in working they wear out, and as surely must build up. Thus, the plant will starve without food, just as surely as will the animal.

We see, then, why plants languish when water, their most important food, is withheld, or when they are in a poor, worn-out soil. These cells perform two important functions. They have the power to absorb liquid substances and pass them on to other cells. In this way the sap goes from the roots far up to the leaves.

The other important work of these cells is to do the work of the plants, taking certain food elements and building up vegetable tissues. They are then carriers and manufacturers. It is the function of the living cell everywhere to take up the liquids that come in contact with it. Thus the cells of the roots of the plants take water and the mineral salts, and, as we have seen above, they pass these up thru the trunk and twigs, even to the topmost leaves.

Perhaps water is the most important element which the roots take, and, contrary to what most people think, practically all water comes from the roots. The mineral elements are quite numerous; but only three need usually be supplied to the soil. These are nitrogen, potash and phosphoric, each of which is always combined as it passes along in solution with or as a part of the crude sap from the roots. As this material passes from the cells usually in the outer sapwood, the cells take what they need for their nourishment. They especially draw heavily on the nitrogen. As stated, this sap passes to the leaves.

The leaf-cells, as also the green part of the bark, have as a constituent of their protoplasm, chlorophyll. There comes into the leaves from small breathing-mouths on the underside, called stomata, carbon dioxide from the air.

The leaves by virtue of the protoplasm in their cells have the power of forming carbo-hydrates, probably from the water and carbon dioxide, the former of which they receive from the roots, the latter from the air. While it is

probable that most of the carbo-hydrates—by which term we mean the starch, sugars and cellulose—is made from the carbon dioxide and water, it is very probably true that the cells have the power of converting their own proteids or nitrogenous elements into these carbo-hydrates, which they might do in case the water or carbon dioxide was not present. We know that animal cells do something very like this.

The material manufactured by the leaves is usually some form of sugar. This is borne away in solution in what is sometimes called "elaborated sap," and taken to the cells, changed into starch often and stored up; as starch is insoluble it will remain until changed again to sugar. Whenever there is excess of the carbo-hydrates, this starch is stored; and when needed it is again changed into sugar and borne away to be used. The cell-walls, and indeed all the woody part of the plant, is formed by changing this sugar into cellulose, which is the substance of all woody tissues.

The growth of all our common trees is always added to the outside in the cambium layer which consists of the outer sapwood and the inner bark. In this way a ring is added to the tree each year. We therefore call such plants exogens, which word means outside growers.

As stated above, the nectar of plants is not sap. At the base of the flower, or wherever nectar is secreted, there are special nectar-cells, which differ not only in appearance from the ordinary cells, but have a different function. These have the power to take sugar from the sap which they may simply deposit, or possibly they may take some element from the sap and change it into sugar. This is almost always cane-sugar. Thus, these cells secrete sugar from the sap, and do not simply pass the sap out into the flower. The sugar of the nectar may be in the sap, or may be formed by the nectar-cells. In any case, the nectar is quite different from the sap.

We have seen that the nitrogen in combination carried up by the sap is used for the nourishment of the cells. The probable use, then, of the nitrogen is to promote the growth of the plant. A soil very rich in nitrogen will show thrifty plants. It is supposed that the potash and phosphoric acid are more needed in the fruiting or formation of fruit and grain of the plant. Without doubt all of these elements are needed in all growth and development.

I have called attention above to the chlorophyll of the leaves. This is what makes the leaves green. In the work of the leaves this is constantly being used up. It must, therefore, be constantly formed, or the plant will become pale and sickly. To form the chlorophyll the leaf must not only have the necessary elements, but also sunlight. We see, then, why plants or grass under a board become pale. The chlorophyll is used up, and in the absence of sunlight can not form again.

I stated above that all the water of plants comes from the roots. Those who have noticed how plants revive on a foggy morning may doubt this statement. As the sap passes to the leaves the water is constantly evaporated from their surface, leaving the salts which it bears for their nourishment. It is probable that the leaves do the hardest part of the work of the plants. By this evaporation an immense amount of water passes off. A foggy morning in time of drouth revives the plant, because it prevents this excessive evaporation.

We should never use the word digestion in referring to plant work. Digestion is the preparing of the food so that it can be absorbed. Plants rarely take any food that can not be absorbed. Therefore, most plants have no digestive organs, and perform no digestion.



Keeping Bees on a City House-Roof.

BY "URBANITE."

EARLY in April, 1899, I became the possessor of two colonies of bees. They were delivered one evening after dark, and in hoisting them up to the roof of my house (for there it is where they were to be located), the hives were bumped against the wall, turned over and over, and the combs, being heavy, old and not wired, broke from the frames, so that it was impossible to lift up one without disturbing all the rest. All the combs in each hive were one solid mass—I might say mess. It was clear they had to be transferred to new hives, and my son and I undertook the job with much misgiving. But we succeeded fairly well and without too much waste.

By the end of the month the breaks in the combs had been repaired, and each frame could be taken out with ease

and comfort. By the middle of May the hives were full of bees—boiling over.

Being away from home during the day it became necessary to prevent swarming. This was managed by the use of entrance-guards, by giving plenty of room, and by dividing. They did swarm, after all, but returned after an absence of about an hour or less.

A third colony was started by taking two frames with brood from each of the two hives, and replacing with frames filled with foundation, and a queen was sent for which did not arrive until June 20. She was introduced the same evening, and reared a hive full of fine Italians; but the colony produced only 39 pounds of honey, having been queenless 32 days. The bees in this hive, however, gave me the satisfaction of allowing me to exhibit them with safety to strangers. Frequently have I taken out one of their frames with crowds of bees on each side, they keeping quietly at work without resenting the exposure, and affording my friends the opportunity to enjoy this novel sight at close range.

In all this there is nothing new, and you may want to know what is the use of going to the trouble to write about it. My object is to show that it is easy to keep a few colonies on the roof of a house right here in this city, and that bees so placed will more than pay for their keep, and that hundreds of men with some leisure on their hands might engage in this most interesting and useful diversion, if they will only make up their mind to it.

An apiary on the roof of a house has its drawbacks—carrying things up and down stairs and ladders in the hottest time of the season is not what you may call "a picnic," but, on the other hand, there are advantages: The bees have perfect quiet, and are not interfered with, anything left lying around loose is not lost, and the small boy is barred out.

When I commenced it was with the apprehension that possibly the neighbors might consider my bees a nuisance, but after the season opened, and it was seen that they were inoffensive, strictly attending to their own business, I had no more fear—they became popular favorites, and when my wife sent to each of our neighbors a tumbler full or so of honey from our first extracting, all became friends and admirers; they take a kindly interest in my bees, and my hives are pointed out by them to visitors as objects of curiosity, well worth seeing.

I had hoped that the bees would produce enough honey to supply the needs of our small household, but when extracting the first time, and getting honey by the bucket full, I was most agreeably surprised, tho I should have known better. It was stored from the white sweet clover, of which there are miles between the West Side and the Desplaines River, and the blossoms were out in considerable quantity by June 15, and continued to the end of October; but I think the bees did not get much nectar out of them after the first of that month. No goldenrod, usually very plenty, was seen last fall. The quality of the honey was superb. It was put up in Mason fruit-jars, and sold to neighbors and acquaintances at the rate of 50 cents a quart. There was no difficulty in disposing of our surplus; in fact, a great deal more than we had was spoken for.

My expenses were \$28—that is, \$8 for the bees, and the balance for new hives, frames, foundation, extractor, comb-basket, smoker, veils, and some few tools. For this outlay we had to show: 194 pounds of extracted, and 24 pounds of comb honey, and an increase of one colony. Should they come thru the winter all right, as I expect, the cash outlay next season, as far as these three colonies are concerned, will probably not exceed one dollar.

I know of but one of my personal acquaintances who keeps bees here on the roof. His is a two-story house on which there are nine colonies, which produced last season more than 110 pounds on an average, one running as high as 200 pounds. He was more successful than I, but then he is an old hand. He tells me he has a number of colonies on his farm in Missouri, and only brought here these few "to keep him company."

Chicago, Ill.



The Honey-Extractor—Ancient History—"Honor to Whom Honor is Due."

BY M. M. BALDRIDGE.

THE first honey-extractor put on the market in the United States was the Peabody. It was invented by J. L. Peabody, who now resides in Colorado, and was patented by him in 1869. See page 23, No. 5, American Bee Journal.

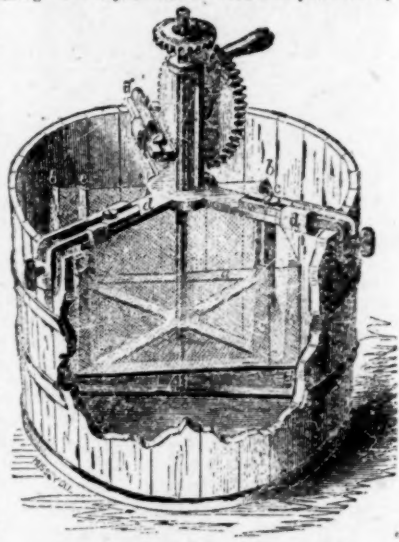
No. 11 of the American Bee Journal lies before me. I have waited very patiently till now for some one verst in

"ancient history" to correct the first statement made in the foregoing citation, copied from *Gleanings in Bee-Culture*, but no one has done so. As I was living in 1869, I will try to show what some of the facts were at that date about the honey-extractor, and to whom belongs the honor of its first introduction to the bee-keepers of the United States.

In the latter part of February or early in March, 1868, L. L. Langstroth & Son sent me their annual printed circular, dated Feb. 20, 1868, in which they say:

"A plan has been devised in Germany for emptying honey from the comb without injuring the comb or removing the bee-bread or any other impurities. By returning the emptied comb to the bees the yield of honey in favorable seasons may be largely increased. An improvement on the German apparatus for effecting this object was devised and patented by

L. L. Langstroth and Samuel Wagner, but further experimenting has resulted in so simplifying the machine that, as now made, it is neither patented nor patentable. We annex a cut of the patented machine, which will give a general idea of the principle on which the modified apparatus works. As now made it has been thoroughly tested and found to work admirably. Two full combs in the Langstroth frames can be emptied in less than 3 minutes after the cells are uncapped, to accomplish which we use a knife made expressly for this purpose, and frequently dip in BOILING WATER to prevent clogging of the edge. We make but one size of machine, holding two of the standard size Langstroth frame (8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches INSIDE measurements.) Frames of smaller size, or broken pieces of comb, can be emptied in it. Price of machine complete, including knife and barrel, securely packed and delivered to the express companies at the place of manufacture in Central New York—\$12. The liquid honey, put up in glass self-sealing fruit-cans, we find to sell readily wherever introduced to the market. As we shall have the machines manufactured only as ordered, those wishing them to use this season should order early."



The circular, from which I copy the foregoing, is still in my possession and I will send to the editor the picture or cut of the patented machine referred to by Langstroth & Son, with the request that it be reproduced in the *American Bee Journal*, so its readers may see and examine it for themselves.

On March 10, 1868, I sent my order for the honey-knife and the improved machine to Messrs. Langstroth & Son, and in a short time thereafter the same were sent to me in this city from Central New York, but from what point I do not just now remember. The machine was tried by me as soon as received, but it did not suit me very well, and mainly because it had no gearing—simply a short, horizontal crank on top of the spindle to make the extracting-box revolve. Otherwise the machine was a good one of the kind. The outer-case was simply a well-made barrel.

In the month of May following, I received an order for a Langstroth machine from A. E. Trabue, of Hannibal, Mo., a practical and extensive bee-keeper near that city, as I was acting as agent for Langstroth & Son. As I thought I could improve the machine in many ways, I sent on to Mr. Trabue the one I got from Central New York. I then got up a number of extractors and added a gearing to each of them. One of those machines I sold to Jas. M. Marvin, of this city, in the summer of 1868, and he used it in his apiary from year to year up to the date of his death. That was a strong, durable, and practical extractor and it is still in good repair and ready to do a fair day's work, so I am assured by a nephew of Mr. Marvin who now owns the same machine. This nephew also resides in this city.

I advertised my make of honey-extractors by circular, and otherwise, in 1868, and for several years thereafter, and sold a number of them to bee-keepers in this and other States.

Now, my main purpose in mentioning some of the foregoing facts is simply to prove, as a matter of history, that my old friend, Peabody, whom I knew personally quite well while he was a resident of Illinois, did not by any means put on the market of the United States the first honey-extractor; and, besides, to bestow honor upon whom the same belongs.

Kane Co., Ill., March 16.

Some Excellent Apiarian Suggestions.

BY WM. M. WHITNEY.

TO one contemplating bee-keeping I would say, before you commence actual practice—say during the winter—procure some good work on the subject and study it thoroly. Make a plan of your bee-yard and mark the places for your hives and number them. With this diagram before you, open your book of instructions and commence manipulating your imaginary hives according to the directions given, noting what has been done with each hive. Thus will be fixt in the mind the different operations, so that when the actual practice begins, you will not feel the degree of embarrassment which you might otherwise experience in an emergency.

In the meantime subscribe for some good apicultural journal—more than one would be better. Then, in the spring, you are ready to take care of 2 to 10 colonies of bees, with plenty of leisure for other pursuits.

Adopt standard appliances—hives, supers, cases, frames, sections, etc.—always keeping in mind your particular locality and its needs. To do this your eyes and ears must be quick to catch every important matter pertaining to your business, then if you have a reasonably good field for operations, and are a live, wide-awake person, as above indicated, you will meet with a fair measure of success.

Let *fads* alone, until those who make it a business to experiment, have tested and proven their efficiency. I am not opposed to those who are experimenting along those lines, for many of our very valuable improvements have been dubbed *fads*, and have met much opposition and ridicule. But the beginner in any enterprise should feel his way carefully, if he would escape the pitfalls that lie concealed along his pathway.

Apiculture—if I may be allowed to digress—in its full significance, includes both science and art, and, to some extent, might be taught in our schools of technology. It is as much a distinct branch of business as horticulture, floriculture, or any other specialty in rural pursuits, and can only be carried on like the others successfully by the specialist; therefore, it is not adapted to the ordinary or average farmer, so many of whom conduct their farm operations in a loose, slipshod manner.

Do not understand me as meaning that farmers should not be bee-keepers, for among the rural population is the proper place for the pursuit, but persons should be trained for it, and many farmers are experts, but unless one intends to study the business thoroly, and do his work in the best manner, keeping his bees healthy, and everything neat and clean, he should let it severely alone, or he will sooner or later meet disaster, and spread disease and death among the apiaries of the surrounding country.

To emphasize what I wish to convey, let me give one illustration only, among many which might be given, viz.: While talking with a man from the country not long ago about bees, he said to me:

"A neighbor has 18 or 20 colonies. He started with two Italian colonies which he bought in movable-frame hives, but concluded he could not afford to buy such hives, so made common box-hives for the increase. When more honey was needed than could be got from boxes on top of the hives, the bees were killed to get it. I bought two hives of him last summer for the honey, and in the fall I butchered the bees and got over 100 pounds of honey."

Now, I would like to *butcher* all such bee-keeping. If the business was in the hands of expert persons, scattered about among the people of the rural districts to fairly occupy the ground, it would be to the advantage, not only of the manufacturer of bee-keepers' supplies, but of the publishers of bee-literature, and would be much better for all concerned, than the indiscriminate bee-keeping which is so often advocated at bee-keepers' conventions, and thru the medium of apicultural journals.

Kankakee Co., Ill.

Celluloid Bee-Button.—We have had made to order a very neat $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch celluloid button to pin on the coat-lapel. Upon it is the picture of a golden queen-bee, and around the edge these words: "Our toil doth sweeten others." It will especially please the boys and girls, and is a neat thing for members of bee-conventions to wear. It is a nice badge or emblem of the sweet industry in which bee-keepers are engaged. Prices, postpaid: One button, 8 cts.; 2 buttons, 6 cts. each; or 5 or more, 5 cts. each. Stamps taken.

THE AFTERTHOUGHT

The "Old Reliable" seen thru New and Unreliable Glasses.

By E. E. HASTY, Richards, Ohio.

OVERSTOCKING IN COLORADO.

So it appears that in Colorado an apiary seems disinclined to increase after the 100-colony mark is reached—and this when a small apiary with the same field to itself would increase rapidly. This looks like overstocking, but not necessarily ruinous overstocking. Fairly good crops may be hoped for, I think, even under conditions where swarms are not plenty. Also the stock may be too large for the pollen supply, when it is not too large for the honey supply. As a relief from swarms, I am not sure but some of us would be glad to get into just such a location as the latter. Page 134.

Mr. Lyon, on the same page, strikes into an element of the overstocking question which is usually unconsidered. One colony has 30,000 bees, and 20,000 of them are field-bees. Manifestly a given range could support a thousand of the latter kind of colonies as well as a hundred of the former—that is, so far as honey goes it could.

THAT SNOWBOUND TEXAN APIARY.

A Texas apiary piled with 18 inches of snow—and a good-looking man standing in the midst! Quite unique. (Page 145.) Now let's have a Norwegian apiary shaded by palms, and naked little darkies climbing in them picking the cocoanuts.

A SHORT SERMON ON JUSTICE.

But, Mr. Victor, instead of congratulating you on getting even with the thieves, I fear I must read you a sermon instead. Is it right to keep five men in jail 30 days when only one committed the crime? In dealing with men of another race it's easy to say, "O they're all thieves;" but mostly this is not true. It is not only possible, but more than possible, that one or more of your victims disapproved of the theft, and remonstrated about it. Or, some may have been steadily duped by stories about wild honey from the trees. One of the reasons why this nation was formed in the first place was that accused persons might have a prompt trial. And one of the minor reasons why we went to war with Spain was that Cuban-American citizens (no better a lot than your five, quite likely) were kept in jail without trial. I suppose the Sheldon of it would be: How would Jesus Christ have us proceed toward five men, one of whom had been stealing, and the other four not anxious that their friend be punished?

ACTIONS OF STUNG ANIMALS DIFFER.

So we are to understand, on as good authority as Prof. Cook, that the standard remedy in case of an animal desperately stung, is blankets kept dripping with cold water. But cow as well as man is subject to "locality." The case of one who stood and writhed and died, without thinking of such a thing as running away, does not prove that all would do so. And, by the way, I think we have somewhere evidence that *sometimes* the horse, after receiving hundreds of stings, drops his violence and becomes docile and almost affectionate. Page 147.

A SCIENTIST'S VIEWS ON HONEY.

Scientist Headden's doctrine that ripe honey is one-third water, he must expect us to kick at. Is not one-fifth nearer it? And his surmise that stirring honey does not make it candy any quicker is pretty surely wrong. As to his statement that the relative amount of dextrose and levulose is the same in all samples of honey—perhaps we would better lay that upon a handy shelf, without either believing it or disbelieving it just now. Would rather strain our "believer" to believe that the most solid samples of granulated honey are half fluid, as his statements seem to imply when put together. Page 147.

GETTING AT THE SIZE OF FOUL-BROOD SPORES.

Thanks to Prof. Gillette for his characterization of the foul-brood bacillus. Some longer, some shorter, but the

longest ones proportioned like half a lead-pencil. I would gently remonstrate about the 1,800,000 spores spread to dry on the head of a pin. That kind of illustration does not after all *help* our minds, but hinders and stupefies. Let's see if we can't do better. I find that a book at hand has 384 thicknesses of paper to the inch. Applying this number to the Professor's figures, it appears that 14 fat old bacilli end to end would just reach thru a sheet of thin paper, and that 31 spores would do the same. We can realize this; but few minds *can* realize properly two stout figures multiplied together and the product squared or cubed. Page 148.

TRYING TO IMPROVE BEES.

Yes, Mr. Hutchinson, there is a difference in bees; but the grand trouble is that when we once wake up, and try to improve our stock, we throw away good ones, and buy poor ones at a high price. Page 152.

"YORK'S HONEY" VS. "HASTY'S HONEY."

Thanks for the editorial statement of the honey-dealer's side of the marking dissention. I see. Neither boy is to blame for loving the girl; but they can't both have her. And there *must* be some proper and Christian way to decide things. 'Specks it will have to be the old familiar way—the one that *can* get her gets her, and the other must quietly behave himself like a gentleman. I say this in the sad consciousness that the city chap will usually succeed in the contest. She will be "York's 'Honey'" and not "Hasty's 'Honey.'" Old Adam will tempt us to say "York's a liar;" but if his customers don't understand it to mean that York produced the honey, but only that he inspects and indorses it as a first-class article, veracity does not seem to be broken. Page 152.

MILK A SUBSTITUTE FOR POLLEN.

If Dzierzon says sweetened boiled milk is better as a substitute for pollen than meal, probably there is something in it. As an objection, possibly milk-feeding would leave a certain section of the young workers with nothing to do, while meal-feeding would give all work. Page 154.

WAX-WASTE NOT ALWAYS WORTHLESS.

The 9½ pounds of good wax from one pile of slumgum which Comrade McKown realized, reminds us again that "things are not always what they seem." Wax-waste usually *seems* to be worthless; and most of us need to be prodded up often with the facts to the contrary. Page 159.

FACTS ABOUT FRUIT-FERTILIZATION AND BEES.

Mr. Crane's article on fruit-fertilization and its plate (page 162) came somewhat as a surprise to me. I had rather settled down in the belief that fruit (if it grew at all) would be about the same in size and quality self-fertilized as cross-fertilized, only the seeds being affected. It is easy to see that the fruit, growing for the sake of the seeds, *ought* to be better with normal seeds than with blighted ones; but I had got tainted with the idea that the facts were the other way. Facts seem to be all in our line, I'm glad to see.

A REVERSING EXTRACTOR POINT.

Mr. Dadant makes a good point in calling our attention to the fact that an extractor *without any center rod* admits of the combs being turned without being lifted out. Page 163.

PARAFFIN CANDLES AND SQUASH-SEED BAITS.

Paraffin candle better than a lamp for investigating a bee-cellar. Sounds reasonable, Mr. Doolittle. And possibly, too, the squash-seeds are better than hickory-nut meats as baits for the mouse-trap. Not so brittle and liable to get off. Page 163.

THAT COLOR-CARD CRITICISM.

Mr. Muth-Rasmussen, it was you that didn't "catch on" to Hasty, in reference to the color cards. He was talking about the eternal finalities, whether honey *ought* to be graded by the inward color alone; while you were talking business and present usages. Page 164.

A RETRACTED SNEEZE AT THE ASTER.

When a fellow is too free with his gab he must either have a large supply of cheek, or else be prepared to take back his dicta semi-occasionally. Awhile ago I sneezed at the aster and its honey reputation, and especially at the idea that any particularly rank smell in the apiary came from aster. Now comes good authority, W. H. Pridgen, of North Carolina, and confirms the whole thing. Shake, Mr. Schmidt! Did you ever see such a know-it-all in your life?

A plant that will sometimes give a month of surplus storing late in the fall had better not be sneezed at. Page 165.

BLINDLY CONDEMNING GOOD QUEENS.

How unconsciously and amusingly pat a good writer can sometimes be in stating a fundamental truth! (It's Aikin I'm after this time.) On page 165 we read, "I suspect that many a good queen has been condemned blindly because she did not have a good, strong colony, when she was not at fault at all." Why, comrade, if you live to good old age, and keep studying, you will not only suspect that, but be almost sure of it.

PERPLEXING FOUL-BROOD PREVENTIVES.

How instructive, and also how natural, is the medication experience of the Colorados! One man used solution of salt and carbolic acid as preventive, and kept bees within a quarter mile of a foul-broody apiary without getting the disease. Naturally he would think his remedy splendid. But then another man kept bees for years near foul brood without getting any. He used nothing at all—and there we are. Page 166.

UNCLE SAM AHEAD AGAIN!

What an absurd idea it is to spend good United States money, and time supposed to be valuable, in getting *Apis dorsata*, when this peerless country already possesses a bee 117 feet long! On the whole, I am mildly (very mildly) glad that the chap to whom we are indebted for this news didn't get stung. Page 169.



CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.

(The Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal office, or to Dr. Miller direct, when he will answer them here. Please do not ask the Doctor to send answers by mail.—EDITOR.)

Painting Hives Two Colors.

How would it do to paint loose-bottom hives dark on one end and one side, and white on the others, then turn to suit the season? KENTUCKY.

ANSWER.—The plan is worth considering. If I understand rightly, the idea is this: If a hive faces southeast, the front and the side to the southwest would be white for the summer and the other end and side dark. That is, the parts toward the sun would be white so as to reflect the heat of the sun, keeping the hive cooler. Then for winter it would be reversed, still having the entrance face southeast, but the sides toward the sun dark, so as to absorb the sun's rays and make the hive warm. It is just possible that on some days in winter the dark color would make enough difference so that bees would fly when they would not fly with white surfaces to the sun. But in Kentucky do you always want to have bees fly out oftener than they do in a white hive? For as one goes south the line is reached where the thing desired is to keep bees from flying as much as possible.

A Swarming Experience.

Are there others who ever had this experience? I purchased a box-hive of bees some time ago, transferred them March 8, or rather I took about 3/4 of them from the box and put them into a frame hive. On March 23 the box gave a 4-quart swarm, leaving as many in the box. Of course I took the old queen when I made the transfer, so the balance had no queen, but would rear one in 15 days; but she came out with her full brood, on her wedding-flight, and this must have been on the very day she came forth from her own cell, as 15 days would be her time. I now have (3) good 4 to 5 quart colonies from one box-hive in just 15 days. Every one of them is bringing in honey from early to late. The swarming took place on a rather cool day—a little

misty—at 2:30 p.m. The bees are a very large black variety, and as gentle as any bees I ever saw. I do not know what kind they are, being quite different from the rest, or any I have seen in this neighborhood. FLORIDA.

ANSWER.—Under the same circumstances you would probably have the same experience repeated. At any time when bees are gathering, take away from a strong colony the queen and some workers, and if enough bees are left in the hive you may be pretty sure the first queen that emerges will issue with a swarm.

It is not at all certain that the young queen that issued with the swarm issued from her cell the day the swarm issued. For in that case the bees must have chosen an egg if they started a queen-cell any time within two days after the old queen was taken. While I believe that bees prefer to select a larva not more than 2 or 3 days old, I do not believe they prefer an egg; and there was a chance that the young queen in question was two or more days old when the swarm issued.

LATER.—My box-hive just gave out another swarm of about 3 1/2 quarts. This makes 4 colonies from one in just 17 days. Is this not unusual? FLORIDA.

ANSWER.—If bees are left to their own sweet will, it is nothing unusual to have 3 swarms issue within 17 days, and even four or five; but it is probably unusual for a third swarm to be strong enough to have 3 1/2 quarts of bees.

Likely Bee-Paralysis—A Suggested Remedy.

I have 60 colonies of bees, and five of them are diseased as follows: The old bees become bright and shiny with bowels much distended. The younger bees are much swollen and have but little use of themselves. Unhatched bees that die have pink eyes. Some of the cappings have holes as if they had been bursted by accumulation of gasses inside. The unhatched dead have no smell or ropiness.

For 3 years I have had from 1 to 5 colonies diseased. I have cremated them heretofore, but now I wish to know the name of the disease and a remedy therefor. Only one colony has ever recovered sufficiently to do any good. Is the disease contagious? and how is it communicated from hive to hive? It seems more fatal in spring or early summer.

Giving diseased colonies young queens has failed to cure. Sprinkling sulphur in the brood-nest seems to abate the disease to some extent. TEXAS.

ANSWER.—It seems to be a case of bee-paralysis. As far south as Texas it gets to be a very serious matter. It would be easy to give a list of remedies that have been vaunted as successful from time to time, but the unfortunate thing about it is that no remedy seems yet to have been discovered that proves effective the next time it is tried, and perhaps the best thing is to try to keep colonies strong and hope the damage may be as little as possible.

I don't really know whether the disease is contagious, nor how it is communicated.

The latest cure I have seen is given in the Australasian Bee-Keeper, and it is claimed a number of bee-keepers have succeeded with it. The cure is as follows: To a pound of honey add 1/2 ounce of a mixture of one part sulphurous acid with 4 parts tincture of podophyllin. Heat to 90 degrees, and daily spray combs, bees and all. Three to five days' spraying cures. This may be worth trying.

Bran Instead of Chaff for Packing.

I would like to know if bran will do as a substitute for chaff packing to keep the bees warm? MINNESOTA.

ANSWER.—I don't know. I think no one has reported a trial of bran for packing; but I should be afraid it would not keep so dry and sweet as chaff. Mice would probably like it better than chaff.

Dr. Miller's Honey-Queens are offered as premiums, on another page, for sending us new subscribers to the American Bee Journal. The offer is limited to our present regular subscribers, and the queens are to be mailed in rotation, beginning about June 1st, so first come first served. Look up a new subscriber, send in his name with \$1.00, and we will enter your order for a Dr. Miller Honey-Queen.



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NOTE—The American Bee Journal adopts the Orthography of the following Rule, recommended by the joint action of the American Philological Association and the Philological Society of England:—Change "d" or "ed" final to "t" when so pronounced, except when the "e" affects a preceding sound. Also some other changes are used.

The Langstroth Monument, referred to recently in these columns, will likely be erected before June 1. We have just learned from General Manager Secor that a total of \$300 has been raised for the purpose. The one selected is Vermont granite, of very nice proportions, and he feels sure will please the bee-keepers who contributed to it.

We expect to show our readers a picture of the monument after it is in place.

The Chicago Bee-Keepers' Association met Friday afternoon and evening, April 6, as announced. The most prominent bee-keepers present were Dr. C. C. Miller, Ernest R. Root (the president of the National Bee-Keepers' Association), and M. M. Baldridge. There was a fair attendance at the afternoon session, and a goodly number in the evening.

One very enjoyable feature was the supper, which all partook of together around one long table in a near-by restaurant. It seemed more like one large family gathered about the home festal board, and all appeared to approve most heartily of the event, as well as the viands that were so well served, and which disappeared so promptly.

Perhaps the most important action taken at this meeting was the unanimous adoption of a motion that the members of the Chicago Bee-Keepers' Association join the Na-

tional in a body. This added at once the dues of nearly 40 members to the National, and doubtless at least three-fourths of them are new members, so that the National will not only gain in dollars, but will also have its numbers swelled somewhat.

It is the hope of the Chicago Association that every bee-keeper who resides within its territory (say Cook and adjoining counties) will at once send his dollar to Secretary H. F. Moore, Park Ridge, Ill., and request that he be made a member of both organizations. If it is more convenient, the dollar may be sent to the editor of this journal, who will see that Mr. Moore gets it with proper instructions. A receipt will then be mailed by each association.

The arrangement whereby the members of a local association can become members of the National for 50 cents each, when joining in a body (provided the annual dues of the local society are \$1.00), should be the means of increasing the membership in both organizations; and especially should it contribute to an increased interest in the local association. As the writer is mainly responsible for this provision in the new constitution of the National, he naturally desires that it shall prove of much advantage to all concerned, and be used by every local association in the United States. If not mistaken, there are now three local associations that have availed themselves of this new privilege to join the National in a body at half price, viz.: The Wisconsin, the South Dakota, and lastly the Chicago Association.

Co-operation Among Bee-Keepers.—F. E. Brown tells in *Gleanings in Bee-Culture* how the California bee-keepers are combining to stiffen prices, much in the same way as has already been told of the Colorado association. W. L. Coggs shall also urges in the same journal that bee-keepers should combine and fight fire with fire, and shows how combination on the part of purchasers of honey keeps prices down, as follows:

"I knew from the bee-journals I read that the honey-crop was light all over the country. Therefore, early in the season I wrote several letters to the leading bakeries, offering my honey, buckwheat extracted, at 6 cents f. o. b. What was the result? They all wrote me back, offering me 4½ delivered, saying they were *restricted* to pay only so much (baker's combination or trust, if you please). I tried the same scheme six weeks later. Well, the bakers had found out that the honey market was higher, and they were willing to pay 5 cents a pound. Mind you, the prices were exactly the same at each bakery, and they were *instructed* to pay that and no more. Combination again."

Ten Percent Honey; 90 Percent Fraud.—The following, referring to New York city, appears in *Gleanings in Bee-Culture*:

"There is a new enterprise started on the East Side in which they are adulterating by the carload honey which will granulate in three days. It has the appearance of and tastes very much like honey; has about 10 percent of the pure article in it. Twelve carloads has been turned out in the last 60 days. It sells for 5½ cents per pound."

Editor Root thinks bee-keepers in the East will do well to turn their attention to comb honey rather than to try to compete with this 5½-cent fraud. He thinks the National Bee-Keepers' Association may do something to stop this villainous work, and considers it a matter of economy for every bee-keeper to become a member. In this last opinion he is undoubtedly correct, whatever may be the kind of honey one produces. A drop in the price of extracted honey can not fail to have some influence on the price of comb honey. It is not difficult to believe that a sufficient amount of adulteration like that outlined in the foregoing might reduce the price of comb honey a cent on the pound. Suppose it make a difference of only ½ cent a pound. That makes a

loss of \$1.00 on 200 pounds of honey—enough to pay a year's membership in the National Bee-Keepers' Association. And yet only a comparatively small number have their eyes opened to see that it is a profitable investment to send in that dollar.

Look at what has been done in the past by united action. At the present time the one great foe of bee-keepers is adulteration. The National association can work only as it has "sinews of war." Even with its present small membership it is making itself felt. If you who are not now a member will join, it can do just so much more. Your joining will help to induce others to join. Will you stand idly by, while the battle is being fought, and allow others to pay the cost while you share in the benefits? Is that entirely honorable? True, many honorable men are holding back, but have they correctly weighed what they are doing?

Honey in an Unexpected Place.—Rev. Louis Albert Banks, of Cleveland, Ohio, gave the following incident in the *New Voice* some time ago:

In May, 1898, while one of the volunteers from Dover, Maine, was waiting for the government to call the troops to the front, he went out one afternoon and shot some rabbits. On his return a messenger met him in the doorway and told him he must take the next train for the State capital. As his hunting-coat was wet with the blood of the rabbits, he hung it up on a limb of an apple-tree, remarking that it would be well washed by the time he returned from the war. Upon his return he thought he would try his luck partridge-shooting before settling down to farm-work. The canvas coat was hanging from the limb in the orchard; but when he went to put it on he found that it was already occupied by a swarm of bees, which had taken possession of the garment during his absence. With the aid of a sulphur-smudge fire he expelled the bees and secured 22 pounds of delicious white comb honey.

What are the Best Queens Worth? is a question discussed by W. A. H. Gilstrap, in *Gleanings in Bee-Culture*. He thinks some queens that have been mentioned might produce royal progeny that would raise the average yield per colony 40 pounds, and figures that with 100 colonies such a result would pay the interest on more than \$200. To the objection that such a queen is a freak, not transmitting her desirable qualities, he replies:

"Perhaps Messenger was the greatest desirable freak among horses. His desirable qualities have been intensified by judicious breeding until the world wonders at the result."

Mr. Gilstrap bred from a queen that excelled in an apiary of 100 colonies. The result was a gain in surplus of \$1.00 and \$2.00 per colony, as compared with other colonies. He concludes that the question of hives is a small one compared with the question of stock.

Fool Writers Still Lying.—Mr. E. S. Miles, of Crawford Co., Iowa, sends us the following reprinted in his local newspaper, and credited to the daily *New York Mail and Express*:

FOOL THE BEES AND THE PEOPLE.

"People buy comb honey," said a man from the country, "believing that the fact that it is sealed by the honest little bee precludes the possibility of fraud. The fact is, that the bees of many professional 'honey'-raisers do nothing the livelong summer but pack glucose into their hives from an open barrel that is left standing close by. 'The bee will not search fragrant flowers the livelong day for a trifling amount of pure honey when it can get glucose. The honey-men see that there is plenty of glucose handy, and instead of one pound of pure honey they aid the bees in putting ten pounds of glucose on the market."

"Human ingenuity has not devised a way for making and sealing the honey-comb, or the bee would be dispensed with altogether. In handling the glucose the bees give it a honeyish flavor, and if you complain to the bee-man that

it is not as sweet and sticky as it should be, he will tell you that it is the early crop, and that the heavy rains make it thin."

"I know a man who keeps 50 hives of bees on the roof of his store in the city, and by hustling up plenty of glucose he gets enough 'honey' out of the buzzing slaves to do a wholesale business in honey. Why, his bees never saw a flower, and would shy at a honeysuckle if they happened to come near one. He will not even let the poor things have a recess to get a drink of water, but keeps a pan of fresh water near the hives for them to drink."

Accompanying the foregoing clipping were these words by Mr. Miles:

MR. YORK:—You have published in times past some queer information (?) about bees, taken from the general newspaper press; I hand you herewith what I think is entitled to the "belt" as the champion lie of the world about bees and honey. It may have been intended only as a "pleasantry" by the writer, but I guess the average editor (not bee-editors) doesn't know enough to think so.

E. S. MILES.

How any self-respecting newspaper can deliberately publish such falsehoods as are contained in the clipping above is more than we can understand. But ten chances to one, should we undertake to show to the editor of the *New York Mail and Express* that one of his reporters had been writing what he (the reporter) knew was only a bunch of lies, that editor would only laugh and call it a fine joke.

The awful degeneracy of the modern daily newspapers is something sad to contemplate. They care not for truth or honor, nor the reputations of men or business interests. We know of nothing else that is so much needed, and of which there seems to be such a limited supply, as honest men—absolutely honest and incorruptible.

Reformed Spelling has attention in the *Inland Printer*, which copies approvingly from the *Dial* an arraignment "of certain eccentric spellings, among which 'thru' and 'program' are typically objectionable examples." That editor takes comfort in the belief that English spelling will not succumb. One smiles at such a belief in the face of the fact that the spelling "programme" is rarely met even now. The *Inland Printer* will no doubt continue to spell the word with nine letters (at least for a time), and as appropriate company also "labour" and "honour."

Per contra, the same paper copies without hostile comment from *Leslie's Weekly* an item headed "Common-Sense in Spelling," which closes as follows:

"Silent letters and fantastic combinations in words impose a useless and wholly unnecessary tax upon the memory and intellect, and they ought to be ruled out of the English language as rapidly as possible. Life is too short and time too precious to be spent in trying to master the absurdities of the spelling-book which have no excuse for existence."

York's Honey Calendar for 1900 is a 16-page pamphlet especially gotten up to create a demand for honey among should-be consumers. The forepart was written by Dr. C. C. Miller, and is devoted to general information concerning honey. The latter part consists of recipes for use in cooking and as a medicine. It will be found to be a very effective helper in working up a home market for honey. We furnish them, postpaid, at these prices: A sample free; 25 copies for 30 cents; 50 for 50 cents; 100 for 90 cents; 250 for \$2.00; 500 for \$3.50. For 25 cents extra we will print your name and address on the front page, when ordering 100 or more copies at these prices.

Our Wood Binder (or Holder) is made to take all the copies of the *American Bee Journal* for a year. It is sent by mail for 20 cents. Full directions accompany. The *Bee Journals* can be inserted as soon as they are received, and thus preserved for future reference. Upon receipt of \$1.00 for your *Bee Journal* subscription a full year in advance, we will mail you a Wood Binder free—if you will mention it.



To Make Close Joints in Wooden Feeders, it is recommended in Leipziger Bienenzeitung to put a strip of blotting-paper between the parts nailed together.

Dead Bees in Cellar-Wintering.—In Gleanings in Bee-Culture J. L. Anderson gives his estimate of the number of dead bees that will be carried from a cellar in which 100 colonies have wintered, at 60 to 90 quarts, or 3-5 to 9-10 of a quart per colony. He says the number of dead bees in the cellar the past winter has been exceptionally small.

Grading by Pictures.—In Gleanings in Bee-Culture is given a picture of the grading adopted by New York bee-keepers. Three sections are shown, showing respectively *the poorest* allowed in the three different grades. None of them have any cells sealed next to the wood. Aside from the cells next the wood, the fancy section has 9 unsealed cells, No. 1 has 43, and No. 2 has 68.

Bosnian Bees are now on the market. Bosnia is in southern Austria, and the bees are described in Schles. Imker as very hardy, making successful cleansing flights at lower temperature than other bees. They begin work earlier and close later than other bees, so reaping larger harvests. The workers are smaller than other bees, and gentler than the gentlest Carniolans. But new things do not always live up to their promises.

A Woman's Plan to Avoid Lifting.—Mrs. A. J. Barber is the woman, and she tells about it in Gleanings in Bee-Culture. A little platform big enough to hold a super has casters under it and is put on the wheelbarrow. On this she puts one or more supers and wheels it to the honey-house, where the little platform can be rolled off the wheelbarrow onto a sort of floor in front of the door so made that no lifting is needed to push it right into the honey-house.

Wintering in a Cave.—John F. Millard reports in Gleanings in Bee-Culture the result of wintering 35 colonies of bees in what he considers the best cave in Iowa, said cave being at no point less than 3 feet under the surface of the soil. On putting colonies into the cave, Nov. 4, 1889, the average weight was 57 31-35 pounds. On taking out, April 4, 1890, the average weight was 47 18-35. Average loss during the 5 months' confinement, 10 13-35 pounds. Smallest loss of any one colony, 6¼ pounds. Greatest loss, 15¼ pounds.

Clipping to Mark the Age of Queens is considered advisable by some, if there were no other object in clipping. Without close watching an unclipped queen may be superseded without the knowledge of the bee-keeper. H. Warnke reported in Centralblatt that he had a queen superseded in winter, the young queen taking her wedding flight Feb. 9. Under ordinary circumstances a queen thus superseded out of the usual season would hardly be supposed to be other than the old queen unless there were some special mark such as clipping.

□ **Evergreens as Windbreaks** are considered very valuable, by A. I. Root, as a protection for bees. He says in Gleanings in Bee-Culture:

□ "I would not get evergreens from the woods, even if they were near by, because you can get transplanted trees grown and trained in the nursery so much better and so much cheaper. Trees a foot high cost only \$3.00 per 100. I think our own cost about \$5.00 per 100; they were planted about 20 years ago, and are now almost too large (40 to 50 feet high, and some of them over a foot thru), if anything. We have tried them at different distances. Only one row is necessary if you let the branches come out clear down to the ground, which they will do in a few years.

"The Norway spruce is very hardy, and a very rapid grower. We have not lost one tree in 100, and these would not have been lost had not water been allowed to stand around their roots. Trees 10 feet apart in the row (as ours are) will make a windbreak for bee-hives rather quicker

than if a rod apart; but in a few years, where placed so closely, it will bother you to get thru them if you should happen to want to. One who has not tried it would hardly realize what a difference it makes during a windy time. One can work in comfort when shielded by evergreens, when it would be very tedious if not dangerous to undertake the same kind of work where the wind has full sweep."

Stimulative Feeding is called by the Germans speculative feeding, because it is considered a speculation, and the speculator may lose or gain. Last year Editor Gerstung, of Deutsche Bienenzeitung, got the opinions of 15 able German bee-keepers as to stimulative feeding in spring. They were about equally divided as to its being advisable or otherwise. All were agreed that when practiced it should only be with strong colonies, and in regions where the harvest comes early. The feeding should begin about 6 weeks before the harvest, or about the time of gooseberry bloom. All were agreed that injudicious stimulation might do much harm, and that it was a very good thing for beginners to let alone.

Bottom Starters in Sections.—R. C. Aikin says in the Progressive Bee-Keeper:

"Doolittle said no bottom starters for him. Here again comes in location and methods. If you can crowd your colonies in the sections and keep them so, never letting them have much room ahead, nor yet ever without room; and more, if the honey-flow that is to fill these sections comes freely and work goes steadily on to the close of the flow, and not only so, but comes reasonably rapid, say 3 to 5 pounds daily on the average, then a bottom starter is of little use; but take it in slow and intermittent flows, and bottom starters—or their equivalent by having the full sheet come so close to the bottom that it will be fastened there—is a necessity to obtaining the best shipping sections."

Not Stung to Death by Bees.—The statement that a Mr. Carson owed his death to the stings of bees enraged by burning sulphur is thus contradicted in Gleanings in Bee-Culture by G. E. Martin:

"The facts as told me by a brother-in-law of Mr. Carson are these. Mr. Carson went to his apiary before breakfast, to do some work with his bees. He was stung four times—once on the temple, ear, wrist, and thigh. He went to the house and requested his wife to get a veil, as the bees were cross. In a few moments he said he would go outside, as he felt faint. He went out and sat down on the porch and died there. There was no sulphur burned. Mr. Carson had heart-trouble, which, combined with the stings, upon an empty stomach, the doctor says, was the cause of his death."

Perforated Zinc Against Robbers.—Says G. M. Doolittle in American Bee-Keeper:

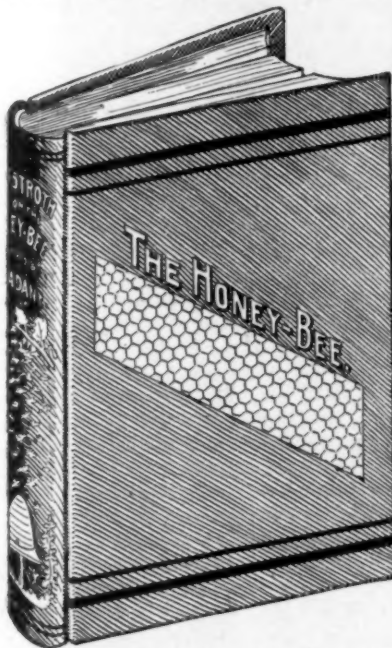
"Robber-bees do not like to squeeze thru any hole when there are defenders behind such hole or holes ready to seize them while they are squeezing thru, or immediately after they are thru and while squeezing out again. And for this reason a piece of perforated zinc placed at the front of an 'awning' of wood which juts out from one to two inches from the hive in front of the entrance, is an admirable thing to use for the prevention of robbing or to suppress robbing after it has started. As soon as it is placed in front of the entrance, the robbers will all be seen trying to get in where the awning comes up against the hive, rather than out where the perforated metal is; while the loaded robber-bees which are in, and the hive-bees, go out from the perforated metal, and the hive-bees go in there."

The Use of Separators is a topic well considered by R. C. Aikin, in Gleanings in Bee-Culture. For home use, or to sell to families who take a case at a time, there is clearly no need for separators. For the retail trade sections must be nearly of the same weight, and must be so straight that the average grocer's clerk will not set them leaning by lifting them out of a case. In 1889 Mr. Aikin produced 8 tons of section honey so straight and true that not more than 200 of the lot were too bulgy to pack, and he used only two separators in each super of 28 sections. But he has not been able to do the same thing since. Bees, weather, honey-flow, all the conditions must be just right—a thing that may not occur a second time in a lifetime—or separators are indispensable. Even if less honey should be obtained by using separators, a better price will more than repay the loss.

Langstroth on... The Honey-Bee

Revised by Dadant—1899 Edition.

This is one of the standard books on bee-culture, and ought to be in the library of every bee-keeper. It is bound substantially in cloth, and contains over 500 pages, being revised by those large, practical bee-keepers, so well-known to all the readers of the Ameri-



can Bee Journal—Chas. Dadant & Son. Each subject is clearly and thoroly explained, so that by following the instructions of this book one cannot fail to be wonderfully helped on the way to success with bees.

The book we mail for \$1.25, or club it with the American Bee Journal for one year—both for \$1.75; or, we will mail it as a premium for sending us **THREE NEW** subscribers to the Bee Journal for one year, with \$3.00.

This is a splendid chance to get a grand bee-book for a very little money or work.

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...FREE AS A PREMIUM...

The ABC of Bee-Culture says of it: "This is a beautiful plant for the flower-garden, to say nothing of the honey it produces. It grows from two to three feet in height, and bears large clusters of bright pink flowers. It grows naturally on the Rocky Mountains, and in Colorado, where it is said to furnish large quantities of honey."

We have a few pounds of this *Cleome* seed, and offer to mail a ¼-pound package as a premium for sending us **ONE NEW** subscriber to the American Bee Journal, with \$1.00; or ¼ pound by mail for 40 cents.

GEORGE W. YORK & CO.
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GENERAL ITEMS

Bees Working Nicely.

I bought 5 colonies of bees last spring, and I went to reading the Bee Journal, and I took so much pride in working with and looking at them that I got the bee-fever, so I bought 12 colonies of four persons that were going away. I now have 18 in all.

I am a carpenter by trade, so I live in town and work at my trade.

My bees are all working nicely, bringing in pollen, except two that are queenless. I have sent for two queens for them.

"KEARNEY."

Buffalo Co., Nebr., April 9.

Spraying Caused Loss of Bees.

Our bees have wintered well, and most of them have plenty of honey to carry them thru the spring. Several springs past our bees died off badly in fruit-bloom time, but last spring they did not. It shortened our honey crop materially. One neighbor said he guest be sprayed them. I can't help thinking it was caused by spraying in fruit-bloom time. One spring there were not bees enough to cover the brood. There were lots of brood and bees just hatching out, but scarcely any that could fly.

Mrs. L. C. AXTELL.

Warren Co., Ill., April 2.

Prospects Good—Early Breeding.

We are having some spring weather now, and an abundance of rain. The first pollen I noticed March 10, from maple. The winter loss is light thruout this part of the country, I am glad to report. Most colonies have a small amount of brood now. It is too early to predict anything in the way of a honey crop, but indications are seemingly good. White clover was not hurt, I believe. I want to try some sweet clover this year.

I must call one of Mr. Aikin's statements in question, that is, his article on page 182, concerning early breeding. May be it will do for Colorado, but not for Kentucky. I aim to discourage early breeding as much as possible, as far as Nature will allow. I positively agree with Mr. Doolittle on this point. But localities differ, and we must be governed by them.

Prospects are good for an early spring here.

J. WILEY MOUNTJOY.

Anderson Co., Ky.

Rendering Wax—An Experience.

In nearly every copy of the American Bee Journal is an article from some expert bee-keeper, giving his experience and telling what he knows. Now I am going to give my experience and tell what I don't know.

I undertook to render some broken brood-combs, unfinished sections, and pieces of wax, that had accumulated since last season. I hunted up the article written by Mr. Dadant in regard to rendering wax. I found he used sulphuric acid; but also added a caution about using it. So I decided to let the acid go and try using water.

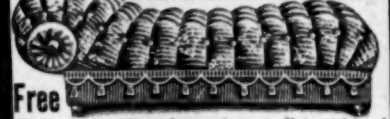
Then I read where some one said, "Use a little soapuds in the pan that is to receive the wax, to prevent it sticking." That had always been the difficulty with me—the cake of wax would stick fast to the pan. Then I thought a man's idea of a "little" must mean an inch deep at least, so I boiled up the wax and took pains to strain it thru two thicknesses of cheese-cloth, as last year when I sold my wax Mr. Rauchfuss said I "should strain it; that there were particles of dirt all thru it; and in order that it might not all stick to the cloth, I

Sharples Cream Separators: Profitable Dairying

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everywhere are furnishing their homes without money by distributing a few of our fine soaps, perfumes, extracts and toilet preparations, among their friends and neighbors.

NO MONEY NEEDED



We send the goods and premiums on 30 days trial and guarantee them. This handsome Crutch is only one of our many premiums. You can furnish your home without one cent. Write for our handsome free book of premiums. Watches, Cameras and Bicycles. Write today. Crofts & Reed, 842-850 Austin Av. Dep. C, Chicago, Ill.

Please mention Bee Journal when writing.

Northern Italian Queens!

Rared by the best methods from my GREAT HONEY-GATHERERS. Price, \$1 each. Orders for queens to be filled in rotation beginning June 1st. Ready to book orders NOW.

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RICHLAND CENTER, WIS.

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In our **Wanamoeth Annual**.

Tells all about 30 varieties of fowls, and their treatment in health and disease; plans for poultry houses, recipes treating all diseases, etc. Gives lowest prices on stock. Sent for 15c.

John Bauscher, Jr., Box 94, Freeport, Ill.

48E13t Mention the American Bee Journal.

GINSENG Seed & Plants

All the latest instructions about it; its value; what used for and how to grow it. This valuable information **FREE** for a stamp. **AMERICAN GINSENG GARDENS, ROSE HILL, New York.**

6E7t Mention the American Bee Journal.

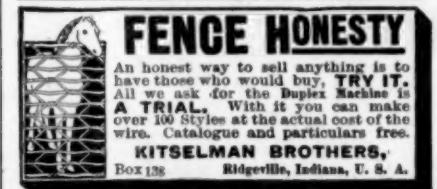
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KITSELMAN BROTHERS,
Box 138 Ridgeville, Indiana, U. S. A.

48E13t Mention the American Bee Journal.

Still They Come!

The colony from the Adel queen you sent me in 1898 gave me 3 supers of honey last summer, tho it was the poorest season here. Other colonies gave only one super, and many gave no surplus at all.

Mrs. C. A. BALL.

Vernon Centre, N. Y., March 26, 1900.

Adel Queens, \$1.00 each.

14E2t **HENRY ALLEY, Wenham, Mass.**



Steel Wheels

Staggered Oval Spokes.

BUY A SET TO FIT YOUR NEW OR OLD WAGON **CHEAPEST AND BEST**

way to get a low wagon. Any size wheel, any width tire. Catal. FREE. Electric Wheel Co., Box 16 Quincy, Ill.

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No. 21—Driving Wagon. Has "Long Distance" axles, open rubber head springs, Bradley shaft couplers and Bailey loops. Price with shafts, \$64. Same as others sell for \$40 to \$50 more than our price.

Illustrated Catalogue contains cuts of everything we make. Remember that we ship our vehicles and harness anywhere for examination and guarantee safe delivery and warrant everything.

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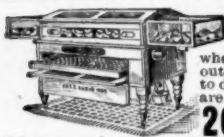
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Silk Faced Veil, postpaid 35 cents; if not satisfactory will return your money.

Apiaries—Glen Cove, L. I. **I. J. STRINGHAM, 105 Park Place, New York, N. Y.**

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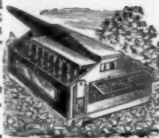
when you know just how to proceed. When the course is mapped out for you by others of experience. When you are told just what to do and how to do it and what not to do. All these things are completely covered by the master hand of experience in our

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It leaves no poultry subject untouched. It's practical and of easy adoption. Among the rest it tells about the latest improvements in the world famous **RELIABLE INCUBATORS AND BROODERS**. Used all over the U. S. and in 51 foreign countries. We mail the book to any inquirer on receipt of 10c to cover postage, etc.

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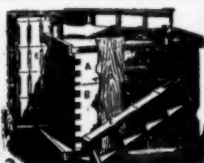


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results from the best care of the bees. That results from the use of the best apian appliances.

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shown here is one of special merit. Equipped with Super Brood chamber, section holder, scalloped wood separator and flat cover. We make and carry in stock a full line of bee supplies. Can supply every want. Illustrated catalogue **FREE**. **INTERSTATE MANFG. CO., Box 10, HUDSON, WIS.**

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If you want the most prolific Queens—If you want the gentlest Bees—If you want the best honey-gatherers you ever saw—try my Albinos. Untested Queens in April, \$1.00; Tested, \$1.50.

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Queens, Bees, Nuclei, Etc.



Having been 27 years rearing Queens for the trade on the best plans, will continue during 1900 to rear the **BEST** we can.

PRICES:

One Untested Queen.....\$1.00
One Tested Queen.....1.25
One Select Tested Queen 1.50
One Breeder.....3.00
One Comb Nucleus.....1.50

Untested Queens ready in May. Tested are from last season's rearing, ready now.

COMB FOUNDATION FROM PURE YELLOW WAX.

Send for price-list of Queens by the dozen; also sample of Foundation. **J. L. STRONG, 1441f CLARINDA, Page Co., IOWA.**

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—AND—

Journal of Agriculture,

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A wide-awake, practical Western paper for wide-awake, practical Western farmers, stock-raisers, poultry people and fruit-growers, to learn the science of breeding, feeding and management. Special departments for horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry and dairy. No farmer can afford to do without it.

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THE DARKEST NIGHTS

your stock is safe if fenced with Page Stock Fence. **PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., ADRIAN, MICH.**

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BEES QUEENS

Smokers, Sections, Comb Foundation And all Apiarian Supplies cheap. Send for **FREE Catalogue.** **E. T. FLANAGAN, Belleville, Ill.**

Please mention Bee Journal when writing.

soapt the cloth also. Now just imagine my surprise when I come to look at my nice cake of yellow wax, to find that it had not hardened, but was a mass of thick, sticky paste! The whole batch was ruined, and I will caution beginners to use no soap, and then they will take no chances on getting too much.

These experts who tell us how to do the work so nicely, failed to tell us how many failures they made while they were learning.

I am glad to add that I didn't melt all my wax at once, and will try to profit by my own experience in rendering the rest. When I read of mistakes others have made (and there are very few who tell of their mistakes) it makes me feel encouraged to know that I am not the only one, and I feel like trying again.

There are a few things in the apiary that I can do successfully, but I can't render beeswax so it is salable.

Now, I imagine if this appeared in the Bee Journal with my address, I would receive circulars from half the supply houses in the United States, recommending their solar wax-extractor; but what could I do with one now, with 6 inches of snow on the ground? Alas, experience comes high, but is a good investment.

I have read with interest the articles from Messrs. Aikin, "Old Grimes," and always am pleased when an article appears from Doolittle or Dadant; and Dr. Miller's answers to questions are a real treat. I often wonder if he has not the patience of Old Job.

Our bees are doing nicely so far, but the next six weeks will be the hardest on bees here. A little later we will try Mr. Aikin's plan of spreading brood, and if successful I will report—and also if I make a failure of it.

MRS. EMMA WOODMANSEE.

Arapahoe Co., Colo., April 9.

Securing Increase Without Surplus.

Bee-keepers here had a good season in 1899. The crop averaged 45 pounds to the colony. I have been here since last March.

I have become nearly blind within the last six months, and as I can not get around to buy any colonies that are for sale, I must rely on increasing the few that I have.

I would like to ask Mr. T. F. Bingham, or some other experienced bee-keeper, to give the best way to secure increase without regard to surplus.

The seasons are backward here in the spring on account of the cool, high winds, and the snow on the mountains. The first alfalfa flow is about June 15. There is not much nectar earlier, as during fruit-bloom the winds and cool weather prevent gathering.

JAMES ANDERSON.

Montrose Co., Colo.

A Mississippi Report.

I am home again among the bees after spending the winter trapping.

The home apiary of 97 colonies wintered all right, only 4 having died; at the Mt. Zion apiary 4 miles north, 83 colonies, none were dead; at the Concordia apiary of 77 colonies, 9 were dead. The last apiary came thru better than I expected, as it contained all the weak colonies I had last fall. At the Stokes apiary of 61 colonies, 3 were dead.

Bees are booming now, working on box-alder and elm which are in full bloom, also peach and plum trees. I have bought another apiary of 63 colonies which I shall move nearer home as soon as the roads are settled. I have gone out of the queen-business and will work all my bees for extracted honey.

This Delta valley is one of the best honey-districts in America. There is lots of room for bee-keepers, in a first-class location.

Every colony is in a double-story hive, and on full frames of comb, and not a two-year-old queen in any yard except the last one I bought, so I ought to get some honey this season.

I am trying 3 sizes of hives. In the home

Western Bee-Keepers!

If you want the finest and best up-to-date goods made do not fail to send for our large, illustrated catalog for 1900.

We sell the **ROOT GOODS**, and sell them at factory prices.

IMMENSE STOCK ready for prompt shipment.

—Address—

Joseph Nysewander, DES MOINES IOWA.
13A6t Please mention the Bee Journal.



HATCH with the perfect, self-regulating, lowest priced first class hatcher—the **EXCELSIOR Incubator**

Hatches the largest per cent. of fertile eggs at the lowest cost.
GEO. H. STAHL, Quincy, Ill.

44A26t

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has a hobby which is the sheep-breeder and his industry, first, foremost and all the time. Are you interested? Write to-day.

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PATENT WIRED COMB FOUNDATION

Has no Sag in Brood-Frames.

Thin Flat-Bottom Foundation

Has no Fishbone in the Surplus Honey.

Being the cleanest is usually work the quickest of any foundation made.

J. A. VAN DEUSEN,
Sole Manufacturer,
Sprout Brook, Montgomery Co., N. Y.



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Root's Goods at Root's Prices—POUNDER'S HONEY-JARS and everything used by bee-keepers. Prompt Service—low freight rate. Catalog free.
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That covers the whole Apicultural Field more completely than any other publication, send \$1.25 to Prof. A. J. Cook, Claremont, Calif., for his

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Liberal Discounts to the Trade.



Here we are to the front for 1900 with the **NEW CHAMPION CHAFF-HIVE**,

a comfortable home for the bees in summer and winter. We also carry a complete line of other **SUPPLIES**. Catalog free. **R. H. SCHMIDT & CO.** Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

We Want 50 to 100 Colonies of Bees

We prefer them on L. frames.

State lowest cash price wanted for same.

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EGGS

From Banded **PLYMOUTH ROCKS** Thorobred, Fine Plumaged Fowls. Farm Raised—75c per dozen.

MRS. L. C. AXTELL, Roseville, Ill.

15A4t

Please mention the Bee Journal.

apiary I use 9-frame, in the Mt. Zion apiary 10-frame, and in the Concordia and the Stokes apiaries the 8-frame. If all is well I will write again at the end of the season, when I will tell which of the three sizes is best for this locality, and how much honey I secure from each apiary.

I will give my report for 1892 and 1893 as those are the only seasons that I worked all the yard for honey only: In 1892, from 97 colonies I took 4,800 pounds of extracted honey; in 1893, from the same yard of 113 colonies, 5,200 pounds of extracted.

J. H. SIPLE.

Bolivar Co., Miss., March 25.

All Wintered Well.

November 11, 1899, I put 21 colonies into the cellar, and on April 5 I took them out in fine condition; on the 7th they were carrying in pollen. I raised the hives up one inch from the bottom in front. The previous year I did not raise them thus, and lost 3 colonies, and had considerable mold. This spring there was no mold.

I consider the prospect for honey very good. Clover can't be other than in good condition, unless there is a drouth.

There are not many bees kept around me, and tho I am 70 years old I still like to take care of the bees.

F. HALL.

Fillmore Co., Minn., April 9.

Bee-Keeping Experience—Bee-Trees

My bees are in good condition so far. We have had a fair winter—not nearly so cold as last winter, with very little snow, and no sleighing.

I am 21 years old. I first kept bees in August, 1890. I was herding a drove of cattle, and while sitting in the shade of a tree I heard a noise, and looking up I saw bees flying in and out. The next day I went to look at it again, and found the tree cut. It was a basswood tree, and in a hollow I found some bees and a little honey. I took the bees home, and in about a month they had stored a nice lot of honey. I took it and let the poor bees starve. Of course I didn't know any better, but thought it was all right to rob them the same as I would a bumble-bee's nest.

In 1897 I caught a swarm about two miles from home, and have kept bees ever since. I find a great many bee-trees, and think that it pays to hunt for them. All of them have been well worth cutting, averaging from 75 to 100 pounds of honey. In 1897 I found five trees, in 1898 six, and in 1899 one.

B. F. SCHMIDT.

Clayton Co., Iowa, March 7.

Wintered in Good Condition.

My bees are in pretty good condition so far. I wintered some outdoors in chaff hives of my own invention—a hive especially adapted to the Jumbo order; I use 13 Langstroth frames and contract in winter with division-boards.

E. M. HAYES.

Columbia Co., Wis., April 9.

Honey-Dew and Its Origin.

As the weather is very cold and my 80 colonies of bees are quiet, I will write what I know about the origin of honey-dew in western North Carolina. I have been acquainted with it and its origin for 35 years, and every time it has been produced by an insect of some sort—sometimes a white looking louse at first, then later it has wings and flies away to some other tree where it may lay another lot of eggs. Some of these insects are white, some are dark, and some are a reddish brown. They usually feed on the tender shoots and leaves of the chestnut tree, but the oak and the hickory are not exempt from these honey distillers. They suck the saps from these trees and convert it into sweet nectar, just as the cow does her milk, then the little honey-bee comes along and takes it into the second "still" and carries it to her hive, where she delivers it to one of her sisters for further refinement. This honey-dew is

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- No. 5.—The Lake Superior Country.
- No. 6.—Cape Nome Gold Diggings.
- No. 8.—Summer Days in the Lake Country.
- No. 9.—Summer Homes, 1900.
- No. 11.—The Game of Skat.
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not any more filthy than the milk of the cow, for it is produced in the same way.

In the year 1898 we had the most copious yield of this sweet I ever saw. There were not bees enough to gather a hundredth part of it, it being dry and warm thru May and June. The first of July the rains set in and destroyed both the sweet and its producers. Some of these insects produce good honey-dew, while others produce bitter stuff.

This is not guess-work, nor what others say—it is what I have seen and know.

A. J. MCBRIDE.

Watauga Co., N. C., Feb. 18.

Wintered Without Loss.

I put 12 colonies into the cellar last fall and took them out last week without a loss, but some colonies are quite weak. The temperature varied from 35 to 45 degrees. Some of them have young bees, and all have lots of eggs.

For an experiment I took 3 colonies upstairs over the store, and they came thru in good shape. I gave them a flight in January. I had them confined to the hive with a screen in front for ventilation. The temperature varied a great deal—I don't know how much, but nevertheless they came thru all right.

The prospects are not the best in this location for a good honey season. The white clover I am afraid is frozen out, the same as a year ago. There is no basswood nor sweet clover to speak of. L. J. BERGH.

Dane Co., Wis., April 6.

A Little Bee-Experience.

When only a boy at home in Henry Co., Iowa, we had several colonies of bees in the old-style "gums," and boxes of various kinds and sizes. We got some pretty good honey at times by placing a small box over a hole on top of the hive, but the bulk of it we secured by the robbing system of prying off the cover and cutting out the top part down to the brood, or "taking up" some of the new colonies at the approach of winter.

In the spring of 1876 I came West, and remained almost entirely away from my bees until July, 1897, when, while at work in the field, a swarm of bees past over. I gave a chase, hailing wheat and oats among them, and succeeded in capturing them. I put them in a box 21½ inches long, 17½ inches deep, and 18 inches wide. They did not swarm until June 11, 1898. This was a rousing swarm, and on June 12 another swarm issued, but not so large, tho they filled their 8-frame Langstroth hive and a super besides, and wintered all right; while the prime swarm filled their 8-frame Langstroth hive and a super, but starved out during the winter.

Last summer I took the top off of the hive-box of the old colony, and fit to it a set of slats to support the combs below. The bees attaching the combs to the slats in a few hours. I made the slat work to receive a 10-frame Danzenbaker super. They filled about three supers, and cast a swarm in September that decamped.

I put the bees in a cave the first winter; but since then they have remained on the summer stands. They have an unusual (?) amount of drone-comb; I think I am safe in saying I have killed a half bushel of drones. They were formerly rather dark, but now they are almost as yellow as the golden Italian queen gotten from a queen-breeder in the East. I have somewhere seen it stated that bees become yellower by being inbred, and this colony seems to indicate that the statement is true. I think there are twice as many drones in this one hive as there are in all the other 19 colonies put together, and it seems the chances would favor them in fertilizing queens. I shall try to supersede their queen with one from Dr. C. C. Miller's yard next season, and run them for drones to fertilize as many of the young queens as possible, by keeping drone-comb cut out of the other hives.

I have all the bees in a cave except this

big hive and another old-style "gum" I bought from a neighbor, which is 12 inches square and 22 inches high. They are wintering all right so far. Those in the cave are wintering well with the exception of 4 colonies—one in a Danzenbaker 10-frame hive, which had dwindled away to nothing with plenty of white honey; two in 8-frame dovetailed hives, and one in a box-hive with a late after-swarm. One of the colonies in the dovetailed hives was queenless. I had introduced a yellow queen Oct. 3, from an Indiana breeder, and she had left no signs that she had been successfully introduced. The other had a queen from an Iowa breeder, and no amount of coaxing would induce her to lay after Sept. 15, and on examining them on Jan. 18, there were no signs that she had laid any in the meantime, so far as I could observe. I contracted them to 3 frames, covered them up as warm as possible, put them at the top of the tier of hives in the warmest position I could, and left them until Feb. 24. I then ventured to take a peek at them, and to my surprise they were still living. On March 10, 11 and 12 it was very warm and pleasant, and they all seemed restless, and with the least ray of light were out on the cave floor. So I set them all out in the forenoon of the 10th, and left them out until the forenoon of the 12th, when I put them back. The colony in question was dead.

I have now 13 strong colonies, and 3 which are doubtful. I secured 516 sections of finish honey, and about 50 unfinished sections from 8 colonies, spring count, in 1899. F. W. HALL.

Sioux Co., Iowa, March 19.

Bees Carrying in Pollen.

I put 92 colonies of bees into the cellar last November, and March 19 I took out 90 live colonies; 4 being rather light I united them, making 2 good colonies, so that I have 88 good, strong colonies, and they are as busy now as I ever saw them, carrying in pollen from soft maple. The weather is all that could be desired, being warm and dry without wind. I have my bees well protected by groves, fruit-trees, blackberry and raspberry vines, on a southern slope open to the sun. P. G. ABBOTT.

Benton Co., Iowa, April 5.

Methods of Wintering Bees.

My bees have come thru the winter strong, without the loss of a colony. This is my third winter without any loss. I have read all of the books on wintering, and also the experience of hundreds, and the nearer they approach to my plan the more successful they have been. It is safe and sure.

Make your hives like a refrigerator—insuring dry air circulation—and the bees will winter in any climate upon the summer stands. Arranged in this manner the dampness from their breath is all carried above, and, coming in contact with the cold air, is condensed, and remains above the bees. When the mercury runs down to 12 degrees above zero and below, this upper chamber will be filled with frost; without this circulating arrangement, with a low thermometer, the hive would be filled with frost, the bees could not go outside the brood-nest, and would perish with plenty of honey. Any hive can be arranged with this dry-air circulation—even a box-hive. Yet a hive arranged or made expressly will give the best results.

Newman, in his "Bees and Honey," page 141, says: "Disguise the fact as we may, until some method for wintering is devised—that is, a method which will prove as safe and certain for a medium weak colony as a strong one; which will at all times give bees access to their stores let them be in what part of the hive they may; that will be as safe in a long inclement winter, etc.—until then, the success attending bee-keeping will be more or less a matter of chance."

With this arrangement I go contrary to the advice of all experts. The "ABC of Bee-Culture" and all others say, leave the hive open one inch at the bottom. I close

mine tight, or nearly so, with a storm shed or entrance. What would you think of a man who would build an extra-warm house, make a good fire on a cold day, and then leave an outside door open? This states the case exactly. The bees creating the warmth represent the fire—why not keep it warm? Besides, when you open the hive at the bottom you stop the upward circulation. Try your refrigerator—open the door of the provision-chamber and quickly place your hand under the opening in the ice-box and you can feel the current of air downward, and the current soon ceases on account of the door being open.

Others advise packing the bees in the fall for winter and then let them severely alone. To this I say no, arrange them so that you can examine them at any time during the coldest weather; you know then their exact condition at all times, and they will not be left to starve and die unattended.

D. H. METCALF.

Calhoun Co., Mich., April 3.

100 Cards and Card-Case —FREE—

We have arranged to mail a neat vest-pocket Aluminum Card-Case with 100 printed Business or Visiting Cards—all for sending us ONE NEW SUBSCRIBER to the American Bee Journal for a year at \$1.00. This is indeed a rare offer. You can have anything you wish printed on one side of the card. Your name



alone will be engraved on the Aluminum Case. It is something that everybody ought to have. Be sure to write very plainly what you want printed on the cards, and also the name for the case.

We will mail the cards and case for 50 cents, when wanted without sending a new subscriber, or will club them with the Bee Journal for one year—all for \$1.40.

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So long as it lasts, we will mail a quarter pound of the seed to a regular paid-up subscriber who sends us ONE NEW subscriber for the American Bee Journal one year, with \$1.00; or ¼ pound by mail for 30 cents.

We have been trying for years to secure this seed, and finally succeeded in getting it. It is new seed, gathered last season by an old personal friend of ours, so we know it is all right. But we have only a small supply. When nearly out we will mention it.

GEORGE W. YORK & CO.,
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HONEY AND BEESWAX

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

CHICAGO, April 9.—There is very little trade in honey of any kind. This is usual at this time of the year, and stocks are well reduced, so that for fancy white comb of the coming crop a good demand should exist. Best white comb now sells at 15@16c, with ambers and dark difficult to dispose of at 3@7c per pound less. Extracted, white, 7½@8c; ambers and dark, 6@7½. Beeswax firm at 28c. R. A. BURNETT & Co.

CINCINNATI, March 3.—There is some demand for extracted honey from manufacturers at 7@7½c for amber and Southern; clover, 8@8½c. Comb honey is selling firm at 14@16½c in a small way. Beeswax, 25@27c.

C. H. W. WEBER,

Successor to Chas. F. Muth & Son and A. Muth.

BOSTON, March 9.—Our honey market is showing some signs of lower prices, altho the stock on hand is not large. At the same time prices are so much higher than previous years that the trade have taken it very slowly and the results are that the holders are willing to range prices quite a little in order to move stock on hand. Prices range: Fancy white, 17@18c; No. 1, 15@16c; amber, 10@12c; buckwheat almost unsalable. Extracted, best white California, 8½c. BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE.

KANSAS CITY, Mar. 19.—We quote fancy white comb, 15c; No. 1, 14c; No. 1 amber, 13c; No. 2 amber, 13½c. Extracted, white, 8c; amber, 7c; dark, 6c. Beeswax, 22@25c.

C. C. CLEMONS & Co.

DETROIT, Feb. 10.—Fancy white comb, 15@16c; No. 1, white, 13@14c; fancy amber, 11@12c; dark and undesirable lots, 8@10c. Extracted, white, 7@7½c; amber and dark, 5@6c. Beeswax, 25@26c. Supply of honey fair with light demand.

M. H. HUNT & SON.

BUFFALO, March 3.—Market nearly bare of all grades of honey. Probably no more from any source to market, but if so, fancy white comb is firm at 15@16c. Other grades from 14c downward, with the poorest at 8@9c. Fancy pure beeswax continues at 28@30c.

BATTERSON & Co.

NEW YORK, April 9.—Market is practically bare of comb honey of all description. Little lots arrive here and there and sell readily at from 10@11c for buckwheat and 12@15c for white, according to quality and style of package. The market is well supplied with extracted, which we think, however, will be moved before the new crop arrives. Beeswax is in good demand at from 27c to 29c per pound.

HILDRETH & SEGELKEN.

SAN FRANCISCO, Apr. 4.—White comb, 11½@12½c; amber, 8@10c. Extracted, white, 7½@8c. Light amber, 7@7½c; amber, 5@5½c; Beeswax, 26@27c.

Very little doing in this line, not only on account of limited demand, but also owing to holdings being too small to admit of anything like wholesale operations. Recent transfers of a small jobbing character are at figures showing values to be practically unchanged.

OMAHA, Mar. 13.—Demand shows some improvement in January, having been much more active, but as anticipated there is no advance in prices. Market remains steady at 14@14½c for fancy white comb and 8½c for white extracted. The latter is pretty well cleaned up along the Missouri River, and it looks as if there would be some shortage before another crop comes in. From present appearances there is about enough comb honey to go around at the present prices, hence we look for no particular change in values.

PEYCKE BROS.

Convention Notices.

Connecticut.—The annual meeting of the Connecticut Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at the Capitol, in Hartford, Wednesday, May 2, 1900. The meeting will be called to order at 10:30 a.m. Mrs. W. E. RILEY, Sec.

Waterbury, Conn.

Illinois.—The spring meeting of the eastern part of the Northern Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at the residence of William Farham, 4 miles southwest of Rockford, Ill., on Tuesday, May 15, 1900. All are cordially invited. B. KENNEDY, Sec.

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The perforated steel fire-grate has 381 holes to air the fuel and support the fire.

Prices; Heavy Tin Smoke Engine, four-inch Stove, per mail, \$1.50; 3½-inch, \$1.10; three-inch, \$1.00; 2½-inch, 90 cents; two-inch, 65 cents.



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Because in 23 years there have not been any complaints, but thousands of compliments.



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Langstroth on the Honey-Bee, Revised.

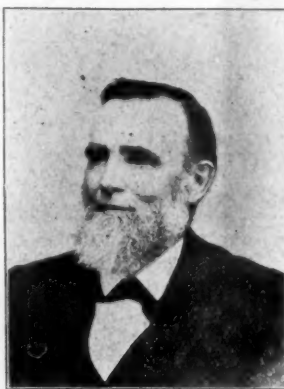
The Classic in Bee-Culture—Price, \$1.25, by Mail.

Beeswax Wanted at all times.

CHAS. DADANT & SON,

Please mention Bee Journal when writing.

Hamilton, Hancock Co., Ill.



DR. MILLER'S HoneyQueens

One Untested Queen Free as a Premium
for sending ONE New Subscriber
to the American Bee Journal
for one year.

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SEASON OF 1900. These Queens will be mailed in rotation, beginning about June 1, so "first come first served." We are ready to book orders now.

The Queens Dr. Miller will send out on our orders will be precisely the same as those he rears for his own use, so of course they will be from his best stock. His best colony in 1899 had a queen reared in 1898; May 5, 1899, it had brood in 4 frames, and he gave it at that time a frame of brood without bees. It had no other help, but May 25 a frame of brood with adhering bees was taken from it, and the same thing was repeated June 3, leaving it at that time 5 frames of brood. It stored 178 sections of honey, weighing 159 pounds (and that after July 20, in a poor season), being 2½ times the average yield of all his colonies. A point of importance is the fact this colony did not swarm, and an inspection every week or 10 days showed that at no time during the entire season was there even so much as an egg in a queen-cell. Dr. Miller expects to rear queens from this one during the coming summer.

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